

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 15, page 4 of the specification with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

In one form, although it need not be the only or indeed the broadest form, the invention resides in a method of forming a silica film coated on a substrate including the steps of:

~~forming a solvent solution;~~

producing a silica precursor formulation having a water content of no more than 5% volume by adding silicic acid tetramethyl ester homopolymer to ~~the aqueous-alcohol solution~~ a solvent;

coating a substrate with the silica precursor formulation; and curing the silica precursor formulation onto the substrate in a ~~an~~ vaporous ammoniacal environment.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 24, page 4 of the specification with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

The solvent ~~solution~~ is suitably alcohol or an aqueous-alcohol solution.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 4, page 5 of the specification with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

The monomer may be provided as part of any one of a number of commercially available formulations such as methyl-silicate-51 (MS51-ColCoat Co. Ltd. , Japan). Preferably the silica precursor formulation is

formed by adding MS-51, comprising >94% silicic acid tetramethyl ester homopolymer by volume, <3% tetramethoxysilane by volume and <3% methanol by volume; to the solvent-solution.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 10, page 5 of the specification with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

The silica precursor formulation may comprise about 0.01-1 parts water and 0.0402-100 parts alcohol for each part of MS-51. Preferably the solvent solution is formed by adding about 0 to 15 parts alcohol and 0.2 to 1 part water for each part of MS-51. An example ratio of reagents in the silica precursor formulation is 1.0 part MS-51: 0.1 part water: 10 parts alcohol.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 19, page 6 of the specification with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

In a further form, the invention resides in a silica precursor formulation comprising;
about 1 part by volume including >94% silicic acid tetramethyl ester homopolymer and <3% tetramethoxysilane;
about 0.042-100 parts by volume alcohol; and
about 0.01-1 part by volume water.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 1, page 7 of the specification with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

In a still further form the invention resides in a silica film having a refractive index between 1.1 and 1.56 and a film thickness less than 100 microns formed by a method including the steps of;

~~forming a solvent solution;~~

producing a silica precursor formulation having a water content of no more than 5% by volume by adding silicic acid tetramethyl ester homopolymer to ~~the~~ a solvent solution;

coating a substrate with the silica precursor formulation; and

curing the silica precursor formulation onto the substrate in a [[n]] vaporous ammoniacal environment.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 17, page 8 of the specification with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

10ml of methyl-silicate-51 (comprising silicic acid tetramethyl ester homopolymer >94%, tetramethoxysilane <3%, methanol <3%) {supplied by COLCOAT CO. LTD. 3-28-6 Omorinishi, Ota-ku, Tokoyo 143-0015, Japan} is added to solution of 60ml ethanol or methanol, and 1 ml water to form a silica precursor formulation having a water content of no more than 5% by volume.